

Vulnerable Children and Adults Act (VCA)

Service Plan



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

Type of Service plan

☒ Individual county plan

☐ Multi-county plan

County name: Clay County

County names:

Contact Information

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Part A: Needs and Priorities

State the type of needs that the county will be addressing for vulnerable children and adults who experience dependency, abuse or neglect using VCA funds?

Vulnerable children

1. Implementation of Signs of Safety practice model to engage families in providing a safety network for their children.
2. A clear identification of and focus on safety factors needed versus service compliance.
3. Continued review of best practices and discussions with stakeholders on improving system practices through the Children's Justice Initiative, Collaborative, Pre-placement Screening and Permanency Planning Teams.
4. Chemical dependency treatment programs and family foster care settings that allow families to remain intact during treatment period.
5. Timely assessment and identification of parent ability and needs.
6. Proper and timely assessment and integrated service provision to meet child's needs.
7. Appropriate response and services to families experiencing domestic violence and those involved in the Clay County Domestic Violence Court.
8. More effective treatment options for sexually deviant behaviors of adults and children.
9. Respite care aimed at child abuse prevention and intervention.
10. Identify factors that contribute to the re-entry of children into foster care.
11. Identify barriers to placement stability and address issues surrounding relative search and father engagement.
12. Work to address on-going issues of homelessness, affordable housing, poverty and crime free housing regulations that prevent families from reuniting.
13. Better utilization of support services to include in-home family skills, parent education, emotional supports, behavior plans, and other evidence based practice models.

Vulnerable adults

1. Continued implementation of the merged children's and adult's mental health mobile crisis response teams in Clay-Otter Tail and Wilkin counties.
2. Further efficiencies with Common Entry Point (CEP) intake input into SSIS and making sure parties that need to have the information receive it.
3. Making use of the Becker, Clay, Otter Tail and Wilkin (BCOW) Adult Mental Health Crisis Stabilization Unit to prevent psychiatric hospitalizations of adult mental health consumers.
4. Continuance of the Reintegration Advance Planning jail discharge program and evaluation to see if outcome of reducing recidivism is being reached.
5. Formulate strategies to increase family foster care options for vulnerable persons needing this level of care and supervision. We will work to decrease our community's reliance on corporate foster care for vulnerable adults and children. One strategy implemented is a revised pay structure for family foster homes who take waived clients to better support the placement and prevent corporate or nursing home level of care.
6. Work on rate setting and rate structuring for waiver services to our vulnerable population. This will increase our capacity to serve and provide supports for more consumers.
7. Further implementation of the Clay County Elder Abuse Prevention Grant in collaboration with Rape and Abuse Crisis Center, Law Enforcement, and County Attorney's Office.

Part B: Strengths and Resources

A county has many strengths and resources to address the diverse social services needs of vulnerable children and adults. Briefly state what strengths and/or resources will be engaged (continued or implemented) to address the needs stated in Part A above?

Vulnerable children

STRENGTHS and RESOURCES IDENTIFIED FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN

1. Clay County continues to utilize the wraparound and family group decision making process to engage families involved in the child protection system and promote positive outcomes.
2. Clay County provides flexible funds to families experiencing or at risk of experiencing maltreatment. The flexible dollars allow for the provision of identified basic needs and support for the family in dealing with everyday issues.
3. Clay County has an adult and children's crisis mobile response service. Lakeland Mental Health has a 1-800 number for 24 hour accessibility for mental health concerns. Clay County provides 24 hour services through child protection on-call; Clay County West Central Regional Juvenile Center (shelter care) are available for children in need of safety and stabilization in crisis situations; 911 is available county-wide for emergencies
4. Clay County staff has been trained and are working to implement Signs of Safety practices to engage families in developing informal supports and safety plans for their families and working together to provide safety and permanency for children. We have developed a signs of safety team who meet and work together to plan for next steps to train workers and ways to implement practices and strategies using this client-centered and family driven framework.
5. Clay County is the only county in MN that participated in a National Breakthrough Series Collaborative (BSC) on Timely Permanency through Reunification sponsored by the Casey Foundation. We have made a concerted effort as a collaborative team to identify and address disparities and identified concerns with regard to placements and permanency. The team has developed several PDSA's (Plan, Do, Study, Act) around clear communication about safety and engagement with families in efforts to improve agency practices and a goal of positively impacting outcomes
6. Clay County will continued to review and train staff on DHS recommended and legislated best practices and will discuss strategies for improving practices in existing Children's Justice Initiative, Child Abuse Prevention, Collaborative, Pre-placement Screening, Permanency Planning and other existing teams.
7. Clay County child protection staff is involved in a Domestic Violence Court Project. The project seeks to insure victim safety, offender accountability and coordination of services across the agencies and community partners that directly and indirectly interact with the Clay County Domestic Violence court.
8. Clay County Licensing Unit will continue to provide training and support-to providers to address special needs of children in placement, such as mental health, supervision, behavioral interventions and poverty issues; in-home services to address family needs and provide supports for reunification, as well as parent education.
9. Clay County has two service providers trained in DC 0-3 Services. In addition, one service provider has trained staff in the provision of The Incredible Years training series. This is evidenced based treatment for families and teachers working with children ages 2-12 with disruptive behavioral disorders.

Vulnerable adults

STRENGTHS and RESOURCES IDENTIFIED FOR VULNERABLE ADULTS

1. Clay County has a history of strong participation in the Becker, Clay, Otter Tail and Wilkin (BCOW) Adult Mental Health Initiative. This initiative aims to meet the needs of vulnerable citizen's with Mental Health needs in our communities.
2. The Common Entry Point for Vulnerable Adult reporting and entering into SSIS is going well.

After hours intake is through Clay County Receiving Center.

3. Clay County has a wide variety and a diverse service provider pool. We are able to offer consumer choice in service providers in most program areas.
4. Our service coordinators/case managers hold strong consumer center planning values and are strong advocates. The county-provider relationships are open and with good communication.
5. The Quality Assurance Provider Trainings have established that the County's top priority is quality services for our mutual consumers, and that we need quality providers in order for quality services to be available.
6. Clay County has been participating in an Elder Abuse federal grant project aimed at educating the community, stakeholders and responders. Trainings have occurred to include Law Enforcement, Attorneys, Judges and Providers. A Coordinated Community Response Team (CCRT) for Elder Abuse has been developed. The team of stakeholders is working to incorporate case consultation and review opportunities with the county adult protection team.
7. As a part of the federal grant, a Later in Life Advocate has been hired to work with Elder Abuse victims.
8. Clay County is currently recruiting emergency crisis adult foster homes for elder abuse situations
9. Clay County has a significant guardianship services contract with Lutheran Social Services to meet the needs of our vulnerable citizens who need substitute decision makers. However, high demands on the contract and cuts in funding are making it more difficult to meet the needs in this area.

Part C: Measures and Performances

Access the link below to review the county's CY 2010 performance on VCA measures.

[CY 2010 Performance Summary on VCA Federal and State Measures](#)

Use the county's performance summary to complete the table and questions below. In the table, enter the county's performance on each of the measures and enter a "✓" if the standard was met, or an "✗" if the standard was not met in CY 2010. In the last two columns, set practical performance targets the county will work towards achieving in 2012 and 2013.

Federal and State Measures

Measures (abbreviated)	Standard (STD)	2010 State/County Performance			Anticipated Targets	
		State	County	STD Met? (✓ or ✗)	2012	2013
1. No repeat maltreatment w/in six mths.	≥ 94.6 %	✓ 95.1%	100.0%	✓		
2. Re-entered foster care w/in 12 mths.	≤ 9.9 %	✗ 24.4%	36.7%	✗	28%	20%
3. Reunified w/in 12 mths.	≥ 75.2 %	✓ 84.5%	87.5%	✓		
4. Adopted w/in 24 mths	≥ 36.6 %	✓ 48.2%	61.5%	✓		
5. Two or fewer pl. settings w/in 12 mths.	≥ 86.0 %	✓ 86.8%	88.4%	✓		
6. Health examination w/in 12 mths.	≥ 63.5%	✗ 56.4%	56.9%	✗	60%	63.5%

≥ = Greater than or equal to; ≤ = Less than or equal to; ✓ = Standard met; ✗ = Standard not met

For each measure for which the county did not meet the standard, identify the measure below and discuss what plans are in place to improve performance on the respective measure. Include what issues/barriers/challenges are hindering the county from meeting the standard, and what may need to be changed or be done differently to achieve the stated targets (add more boxes, if needed).

<p>Measure #2: Re-entered Foster Care w/in 12 mths.</p>	<p>Steps to improve performance:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agency supervisor will generate and review with Agency staff the Charting and Analysis report for re-entry and on a semi-annual basis to monitor progress, identify/assess common factors that contribute to foster care re-entry. 2. Consideration will be given to establishing a workgroup, involving agency staff and corrections, to develop strategies to address factors contributing to re-entry. 3. Supervisor will challenge staff during weekly staff meetings to clearly identify what safety issues are present that may lead to re-entry into foster care by utilizing scaling questions, mapping consultation and appreciative inquiry. 4. Supervisor will review the results of the Child and Family Service Review and reports with the local CJI team, Child Protection team and the Pre-Placement screening team to educate members and explore suggestions to decrease re-entry rates. 5. Agency Staff will continue to implement Signs of Safety strategies to aide in safety planning, development of safety networks and individual resource identification that will increase safety and decrease re-entry. 6. We will review and work to improve our relative search practices by being more intentional about identifying fathers, relatives and significant relationships for placement at the front end. This effort should lead to more successful placement outcomes and reunification home thereby impacting re-entry. 7. We will work to improve the identification of culturally appropriate placement settings. This effort should lead to more successful placement outcomes and reunification home thereby impacting re-entry 8. Adequate Supervision and Service supports are critical in implementing some of the items noted above. Funding cuts resulting in service reductions and high caseloads are impacting the agency's ability to timely and effectively implement the practices desired. The work in Child Protection is administratively burdened yet a priority for maintaining accountability and funding. This becomes difficult as staff and families deal with day to day challenges and immediate needs.
<p>Measure #6: Health examination w/in 12 mths.</p>	<p>Steps to improve performance:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We believe our performance in this area is better than what is indicated and that it may be a recording issue. We will review the recording practices of social workers regarding medical appointments and provide any needed training to ensure all medical appointments are being entered properly.

Part D: Budget

Access the link below to review the county's CY 2012 allocation. Use the county's allocation to complete the budget table below.

[Vulnerable Children and Adults Act CY 2012 Allocation](#)

Fill in the proportion (percent) of the county's VCA allocation that will be budgeted for vulnerable children and adult services for CY 2012 and beyond. Because VCA funds are directed at vulnerable children and adults, only two budget line items are listed. Subsequently, the department will apply these proportions to the most currently available allocation data. If the county changes these proportions at any time, the department should be informed by sending an email to: paul.ramcharit@state.mn.us.

VCA budget	CY 2012 and beyond
Children services	85%
Adult services	15%
Total	100%

Part E: Certification and Assurances

Federal Certifications

The federal Office of Community Services (OCS) requires the following certifications for the use of federal Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) funds (CFDA # 93.667, federal award number 0901MNSOSR, 1001MNSOSR, 0601MNSOS2). Follow the links for a complete description of each certification. Checking these boxes certifies that the county complies with these requirements for the use of SSBG funds administered through the service plan and county sub-contracting process.

- ☒ Drug Free Workplace
http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/ssbg/procedures/drug_free.html
- ☒ Environmental Tobacco Smoke
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/ssbg/procedures/tobacco.html>
- ☒ Lobbying
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/ssbg/procedures/lobbying.html>
- ☒ Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/ssbg/procedures/debarment.html>

Public Input

Prior to submission, did the county facilitate a process for soliciting public input for at least 30 days on the contents of the agreement?

☒ Yes ☐ No Was public input received/used? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Assurances

It is understood and agreed by the county board that funds granted pursuant to this service plan will be expended for the purposes outlined in Minn.Stat.§256M; that the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Human Services has the authority to review and monitor compliance with the service plan, and that documentation of compliance will be available for audit; and that the county shall make reasonable efforts to comply with all VCA requirements including documenting annual public input processes.

Service Plan Certification

☒ Checking this box certifies that this service plan has been prepared as required and approved by the county board(s) under the provisions of [Minn. Stat. §256M](#). In the box below, state the name of the chair of the county board of commissioners or authorized designee, their mailing address and the name of the county.

Name (chair or designee)	Mailing address	County
Jon Evert, Clay County Board Chair	807 11 th Street North Moorhead, MN 56560	Clay

Date of Certification:

October 18, 2011